

Frankfort, KY (November 2001) – Chief Justice Joseph E. Lambert and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) are pleased to release the first outcome evaluation of Kentucky Drug Courts. This report was commissioned by the Administrative Office of the Courts to determine the effectiveness of Kentucky's Drug Courts. Dr. TK Logan, Associate Professor at the University of Kentucky Center on Drug and Alcohol Research (CDAR), conducted the study of the first three adult drug courts established in the state. This study includes an extensive review of program results and cost savings to taxpayers in the state. The sites are located in Jefferson, Fayette, and Warren counties. Findings include:

The 3 sites are serving 64-73% male clients, 40-64% are African-American in their early 30s.

The cost savings to the Commonwealth of 586 graduates equals \$7,060,900 (586 graduates x \$14,691 [1 year in prison] = \$8,609,100; 586 graduates x \$2,642 [1 year in drug court] = \$1,548,200).

For every \$1 spent on a graduate there is a cost savings of \$3.30-\$5.58 in a one year period to the taxpayer through "avoided" costs to society such as arrest and conviction costs, incarceration costs, child support payments, and increased annual earnings.

This study includes established evaluation methods used in other studies of Drug Courts but also includes a detailed examination of other factors relating to program effectiveness. This study used: (1) a 12-month post-program follow-up time period for 745 drug offenders from the three sites examined in three groups—graduates, drop-outs, and a quasi-control group of individuals assessed who did not enter the Drug Court program; (2) 14 different data sources from four main areas—in program, criminal justice, supplemental data, and interviews; and, (3) interviews with a random sample of 136 graduated and dropped-out program participants from all three sites.

This study, conducted by Drs. TK Logan, William Hoyt, and Carl Leukefeld, found that Drug Court involvement was associated with reductions in costly incarcerations and the use of mental health services. It also found reduced legal costs associated with criminal charges and convictions. In addition, there was an increase in participant earnings and in child support payments – both of which give evidence of more productivity by the graduates.

Over half the state is currently operating or planning to implement Drug Courts at the adult and/or juvenile level. These efforts have grown since the Drug Courts division of the Administrative Office of the Courts was established in 1996. While the AOC has promoted the success of the Drug Courts, this study supports informal assessment of program successes. Ms. Lisa Minton, Drug Courts Manager at AOC, works with local judges to facilitate development of Drug Court programs. Judges take the lead in working with their local criminal justice officials, treatment and service providers, and community representatives to develop programs that meet the specific needs of each

jurisdiction. Over 60 graduation ceremonies have been conducted on a statewide basis.

For more information about the Administrative Office of the Courts Drug Courts, contact Lisa R. Minton, AOC Drug Courts Manager, at 502-573-2350 or Dr. TK Logan at 859-257-8248.

Figure 1. Avoided Cost Savings for Each Dollar Spent for Graduates

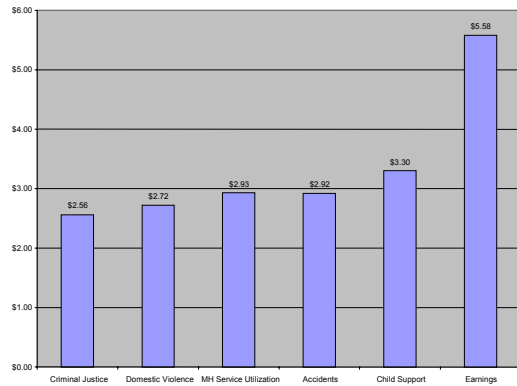


Figure 2. Percent of groups with any incarceration 12-months after exiting the Drug Court Program

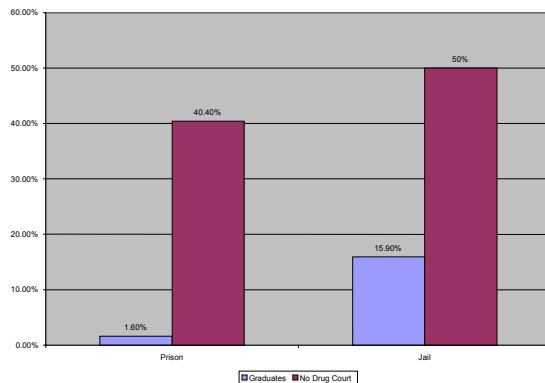


Figure 3. Percent of groups with charges and convictions 12-months after exiting from the Drug Court Program

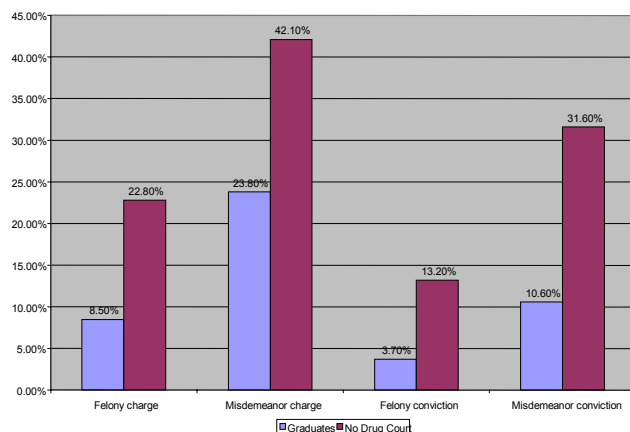


Figure 4. Days incarcerated by group 12-months after exiting the Drug Court Program

